

George S. Hobart House
599 Mount Prospect Avenue
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey

HABS NO. NJ-867

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

STATE NEW JERSEY	COUNTY ESSEX	TOWN OR VICINITY NEWARK
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) 1911 Atlas of the City of George S. Hobart House Newark: Lathrop & Ogden		HABS NO. NJ-867
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE None Known		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) #599 Mount Prospect Avenue, Newark, Essex County, NJ 07104		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) c. 1900-1905 (Map Interpolation & Opinion of Last Owner)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Unknown	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) (See attached sheet)		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) GEORGIAN/CLASSICAL REVIVAL		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Block Masonry Walls with stucco coating (original); wood framed; hipped roof with asbestos shingles.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 2½ story (partially finished attic); basically square residence; 6 bays wide, 4 bays deep.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Ionic order central entrance portico with pilasters, and two free standing columns and side lights flanking the entrance. Venetian Palladian window on north side; cornice with wood modillion and dentil blocks; (see attached sheet)		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) 1. Two fireplaces - living room (marble surround) and dining room (brick); 2. boxed and panelled ceilings - hall, living room and dining room; 3. parquet - wood floor trim in hall, living room, dining room and side room; 4. panelled wainscoting in main hall, stairway, and dining room.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1. Enclosed porch with jalousie windows on southeast corner; 2. Enclosed porch on north elevation below palladian window for use as doctor's office entrance; both built since 1946		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Good condition, used as a residence.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE 1. Garage was not original to the house; it was present in 1946 when the last resident moved into the house. 2. The most recent owner recalls an old photograph, now lost, that shows the house under construction. Concrete block bearing walls were visible with the stucco covering partially completed. This is confirmed by two Sanborn Insurance Maps describing the dwelling as "Hollow Tile Construction - Plastered."		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) (See attached sheet)		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION In compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, David N. Poinsett, Cultural Resource Officer, New Jersey Housing Finance Agency, P. O. Box 417, Trenton, NJ 08603		DATE July 14, 1980

Significance (Architectural and Historical)

The post-civil war period 1870's-1900 saw modern Newark bloom with expansion of major industry and manufacturing as well as the growth of the city as the banking and insurance center of the state. By 1915, there were over 3,000 industrial operations of ten persons or more functioning in the city, which, by this date had become the largest urban center in New Jersey. The total value of commerce in 1915 was \$275,000,000 (Historic Newark, pg. 8).

There is little information about the Mount Prospect area in the general references and histories of Newark. This is probably due to the fact that until the late 19th century, this part of Newark was undeveloped, almost rural in nature. The 1873 Hopkins map shows few residences or other buildings in the Mount Prospect Avenue area. In fact, a majority of the formal lots and streets are planned only and not laid out (as shown by dotted lines on the maps).

This evidently changed during the 1890-1910 period as Newark developed into a major city. Business and professional people looked for more suburban locations for homes. These years showed a gradual expansion of substantial residences along Mount Prospect Avenue. Today many of these residences remain, along with some commercial shops and high-rise apartments.

"Between 1880 and 1925, many notable Newarkers built their residences in Forest Hill, exemplifying a full range of architectural design and degrees of opulence. Situated on a ridge amidst dense forestland, the area afforded an enviable view of New York City. With its proximity to Branch Brook Park, it was isolated from the concrete and noise of city life, yet near enough to conduct business or to share in the benefits an urban society presented." (A Tour of Forest Hill, 1976: Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee, Pg. 1).

Architecturally, the residences built in Forest Hill are representatives of the turn-of-the-century eclecticism which preceeded and followed the World's Columbian Exposition of Chicago in 1893. Creative Richardsonian styles are represented in the area such as the William Clark Mansion (1870's), also on Mount Prospect Avenue. High-Victorian wood frame residences as well as Queen Anne, Spanish Mission Revival, and Colonial Revival styles are extant throughout the neighborhood.

599 Mount Prospect Avenue contributes to the general eclectic flow of the neighborhood. Dating from between 1889 and 1911 (see Atlas of the City of Newark, 1889 by Scarlett and Scarlett and Atlas of the City of Newark, 1911 by J. M. Lathrop and J. G. Ogden), this house was owned in 1911 by George S. Hobart. The house is representative of a Georgian/Classical Revival style executed in inexpensive stucco, but containing excellent wood detailing in the entrance portico and Venetian window.

The residence, along with #585, its neighbor to the south, was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places on October 29, 1979.

The owner of the property in 1911 was George S. Hobart, an attorney of the firm of Hobart and Minard, 24 Branford Place, and later 1180 Raymond Boulevard. The firm is so listed in the 1926 and 1937 editions of the Price and Lee Newark Directory.

From 1946 on, the house was owned by Samuel J. Pecora, a physician whose office was located in his residence.

Additional Description

This is a two and one-half story residence of turn-of-the-century vintage executed in a Georgian/Classical Revival style. It is six bays wide by four bays deep. The walling surfaces are of off-white stucco rendered over block masonry. A hipped roof crowns the house in asbestos shingles. Four hipped dormers of varying widths are spaced one per side.

The first floor front facade is symmetrically balanced with two bays flanking a central entrance portico. This portico consists of a full Ionic Order articulated in a three-part "B-A-B" rhythm with pilasters engaged in the wall and two free-standing columns defining the center part. This sets off a recessed six-panel (raised) door in the "A" bay. A sidelight is located in each of the "B" bays. These are double hung windows of two-over-one sash. The Ionic Order in wood has a full entablature with a denticulated cornice.

On the second level are six windows, equally spaced. These are set off from the lower floor by a continuous stucco stringcourse corresponding to the second floor within. All double hung windows are of typical six-over-one sash. Sills are also in stucco. There are no lintels.

The transition from wall to roof is detailed with a wooden cornice of dentil and modillion blocks. The hipped roof dormer on the front is articulated in a "B-A-B" rhythm similar to the portico below. Panelled pilaster strips of no architectural order separate a single window, a double window and a single window.

A Venetian (Palladian) window dominates the north side. This is inscribed within a larger semi-circular relief arch executed in the same stucco finish. The window is of wood and is located at an intermediate landing level of an internal staircase between the first and second floors. Also, of the Ionic Order, raised on a tall panelled plinth, the window utilizes six-over-one sash. This window is located within the second bay in from the front wall.

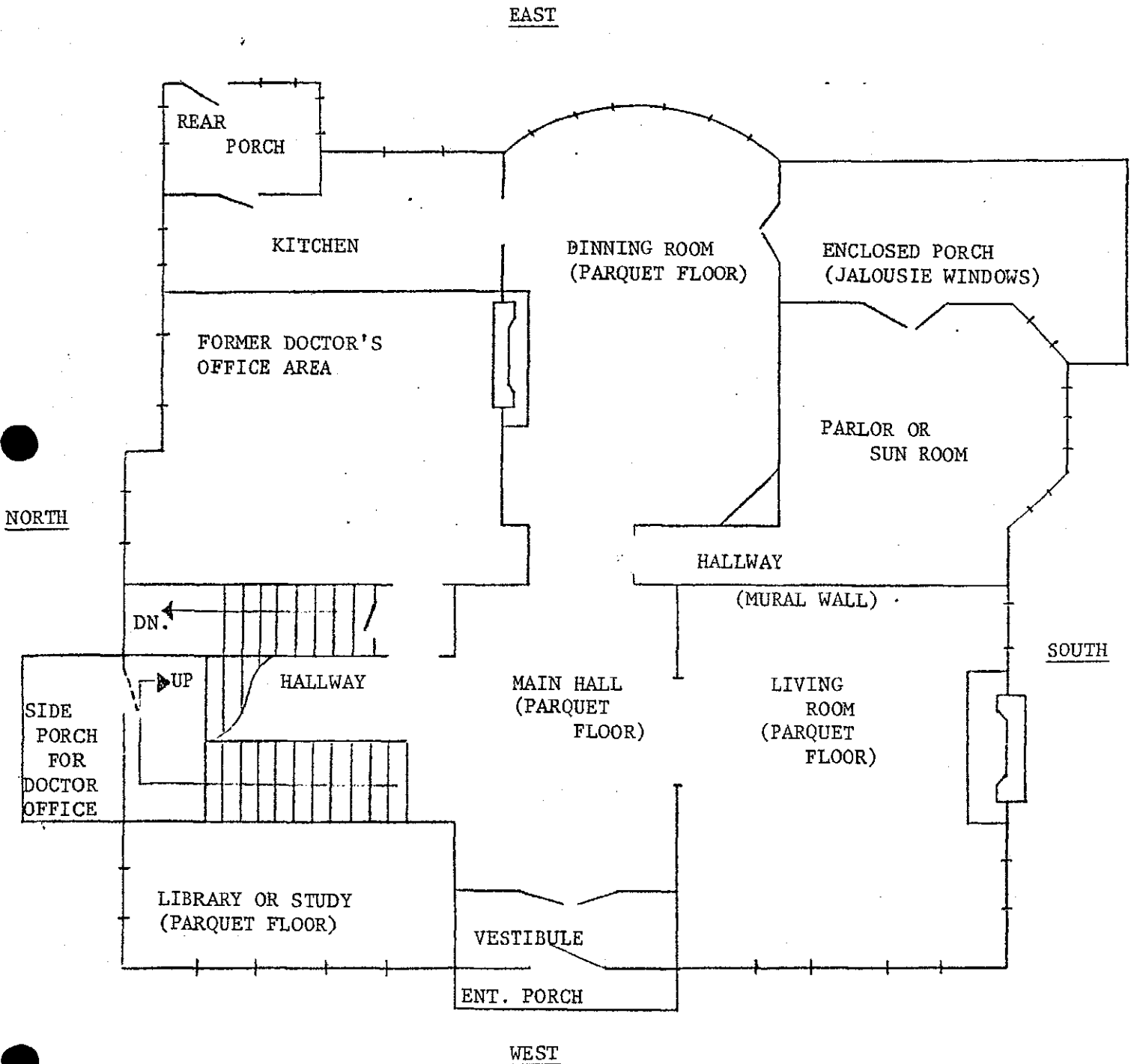
Below the Venetian opening has been added an enclosed entrance to the first floor. Above the opening is a simple hipped dormer containing two double hung windows.

On the south wall, opposite the Venetian opening is a chimney stack.

To the rear of the house is a three bay garage in concrete block (cast stucco) with a hipped roof. This garage is not shown on the 1911 Lathrop and Ogden Atlas, the 1926 Robinson Atlas of the City of Newark, (Vol. 1.), nor the 1931 Sanborn Map Company Insurance Maps of Newark, New Jersey (Vol. 4, plate #453). It was therefore built between 1931 and 1946, since it was there when the last owner purchased the house.

SKETCH FLOOR PLAN - FIRST FLOOR

David N. Poinsett, July 14, 1980



NOT TO SCALE

Note: The second floor contains 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, a hall, and a dressing room. Part has been converted to a small apartment. There are no features of decorative or architectural importance on the second floor. The attic level has been partially finished (plaster walls) and has a small bath, probably for former servants use.

Sources of Information

1. Atkinson, Joseph. The History of Newark, New Jersey, Being a Narrative of its Rise and Progress. Newark, New Jersey: William B. Guild, 1878. (Index to Atkinson's History of Newark, 1878, compiled by the Public Library of Newark, 1938).
2. Fidelity Trust Company. Historic Newark: A Collection of the Facts and Traditions about the Most Interesting Sites, Streets, and Buildings of the City. Newark: 1916.
3. Githens, Herbert and Albin H. Rothe, A.I.A.; National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form; dated September 20, 1979. Property determined eligible for the National Register by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service on October 29, 1979.
4. Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. Combined Atlas of the State of New Jersey and the City of Newark. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Co., 1873.
5. Lathrop, J.M. Atlas of the City of Newark, New Jersey. Philadelphia: A.H. Mueller, 1911.
6. Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee. A Tour of Forest Hill (brochure). Newark, New Jersey: Newark Preservation and landmarks Committee, 1976.
7. Pecora, Mrs. Carmela. Resident/owner of #599 Mt. Prospect Avenue from 1946 until May 1980; discussions by the compiler with Mrs. Pecora on March 11, 1980 (in person) and June 23, 1980 (telephone).
8. Poinsett, David N. Cultural Resource Report for Ballantyne House (#585 and #599 Mt. Prospect Ave; Newark); New Jersey Housing Finance Agency, Trenton, New Jersey, dated July 25, 1979.
9. Price and Lee Co. Newark Directory (for 1926, 1937, 1951 and 1964-5); Address varies per year: 224 Market Street, 19 Clinton Street, and 11 Hill Street, all in Newark, New Jersey.
10. Robinson, Elisha. Robinson's Atlas of the City of Newark, New Jersey. Newark, New Jersey: E. Robinson. 1926-7 (3 vol.).
11. Sanborn Map Company. Insurance Maps of Newark, New Jersey. New York: Sanborn Map Company - 1908-09 (4 vols.); 1930-31 (8 vols.).
12. Scarlett and Scarlett. Atlas of the City of Newark, New Jersey. Newark, New Jersey: Scarlett and Scarlett. 1889.